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# 'The Prince' and the CIA

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MACHIAVELLI had precisely the weakness for myths about military adventurers that the monks had for myths about saints. His thought was closed, formalistic, and committed to history as a lesson in repetition.

And yet those very qual-

ities argue for Machiavelli as our contemporary. For the real Machiavellian is not the statesman but the scholar who would assist the statesman. Servants and not masters are Machiavellian.

What is most current for us in "The Prince" is not its teachings about statecraft but its purpose as a prospectus for a job with, or failing that, a study grant from the state.

IT WAS NOT Machiavellian of the Central Intelligence Agency to endow the Center of International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; it was Machiavellian of M.I.T. to accept the grant.

Machiavellianism is above all else the commitment to serve the secular arm whatever it may be. The disillusion of Professor Eric Goldman, the stubborn illusion of Professor John Roche and not the devices of Lyndon Johnson, their master, are what are contemporary in the Machiavellian experience.